

Backgrounder for the Greater Washington DC Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

The Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition consists of leading government and business organizations in the region working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and make commuting less stressful and costly for employers and employees. Members include Commuter Connections, General Services Administration, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Metropolitan Washington Work/Life Coalition, National Capital Planning Commission, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections and its member regional agencies help and encourage Washington area commuters and their employers find "A Smarter Way To Work" by providing information about transportation alternatives, through carpool and vanpool match lists, the "Guaranteed Ride Home" program, teleworking seminars, commuter Kiosks and other resources to take advantage of regional, state and local government mass transit and commuter alternatives to driving alone to work
www.commuterconnections.org

General Services Administration

The General Services Administration (GSA) secures the buildings, products, technology, and other essentials federal agencies need. GSA resource experts secure space, furniture, equipment, computers, and telecommunications systems from federal and commercial sources at best value. GSA associates support more than one million federal workers located in 8,300 government-owned and leased buildings nationwide.
www.gsa.gov

Greater Washington Board of Trade

The Greater Washington Board of Trade is the largest regional network of business and non-profit leaders and the only group representing all industry sectors. The Board of Trade's 1,350 member companies employ 40 percent of Greater Washington's private-sector workforce. Organizations join the Board of Trade to grow their business and help build a better community. www.bot.org

Metropolitan Washington Work/Life Coalition

The Coalition, established in 1995, accomplishes its mission by: convening quarterly conferences that provide professionals with innovative, practical, and cost-effective work/life information and resources; sponsoring research projects that address current work/life issues; coordinating special events and programs that provide support to employers on work/life issues. www.worklifecoalition.org

National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

As the central planning agency for the federal government, the Commission is responsible for preserving the unique beauty and historic urban design that have made Washington one of the most admired capital cities in the world. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the National Capital Region. The Commission seeks to protect and enhance the extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural resources of the Nation's Capital. www.ncpc.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is the lead federal agency responsible for transportation in the United States. DOT helped establish the *National Standard of Excellence* criteria that qualify employers to become Best Workplaces for CommutersSM. DOT is especially interested in how commuter benefits can help relieve traffic congestion. www.dot.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends. For 30 years, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. Through the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM, EPA recognizes employers nationwide that offer outstanding commuter benefits. Participating organizations achieve a *National Standard of Excellence* that includes offering employees commuter benefits such as employer-provided transit passes, vanpool subsidies, preferred parking for carpools/vanpools, bike lockers, compressed work schedules, and teleworking options. Supporters of the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM are working together with EPA to promote commuter benefits. www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov or www.bwc.gov

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (METRO)

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operates the second largest rail transit system and the fifth largest bus network in the United States. Safe, clean and reliable, "American's Transit System" transports over a third of the federal government's employees to work. Countless other commuters in the private sector workforce, plus students, shoppers and tourists are moved throughout the Nation's Capital each day. www.wmata.com